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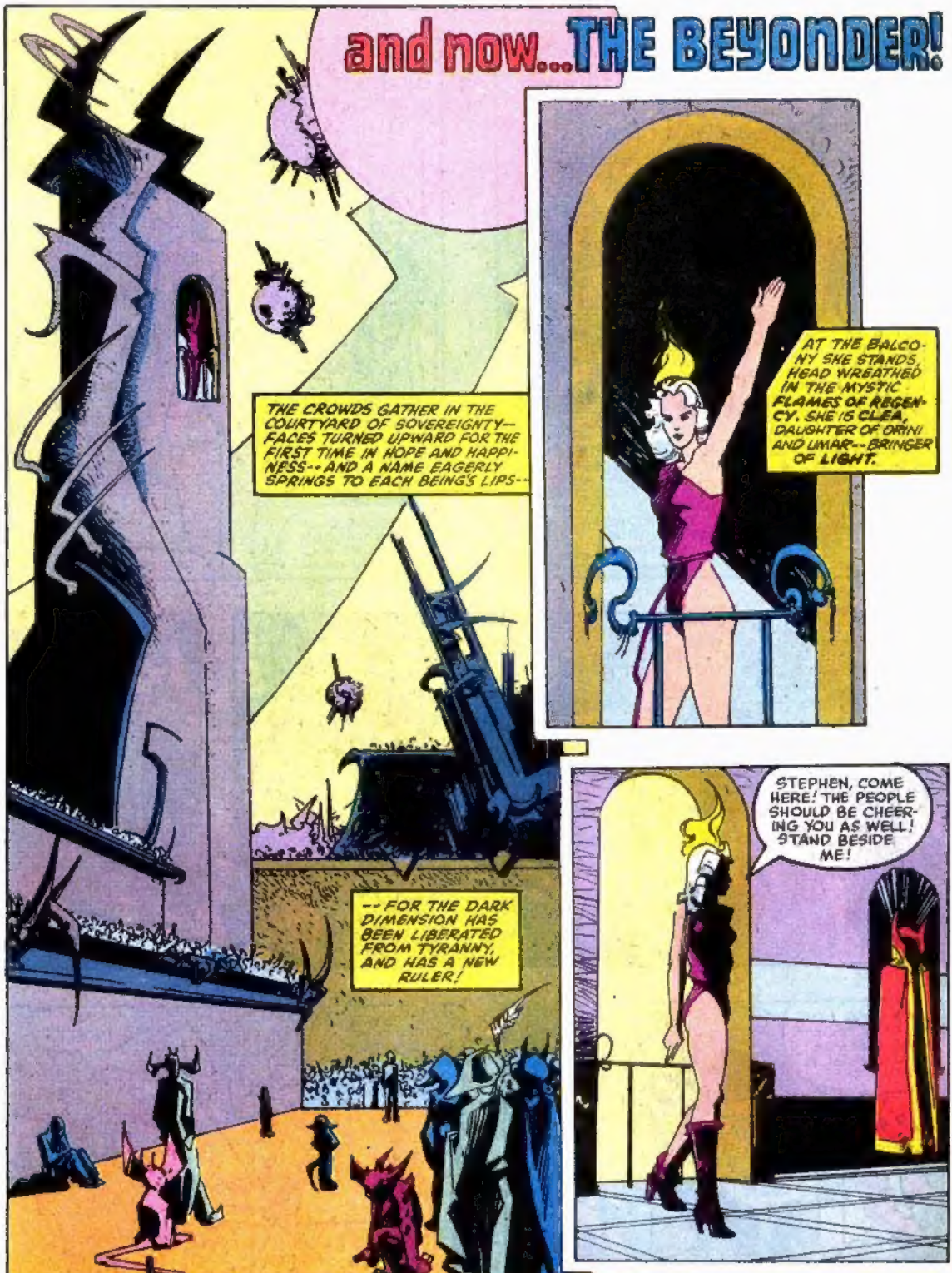
SECRET WARS II
CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!
DOCTOR STRANGE
AND NOW··THE
BEYONDER!


and now...THE BEYONDER!
THE CROWDS GATHER IN THE COURTYARD OF SOVEREIGNTY--FACES TURNED UPWARD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HOPE AND HAPPINESS--AND A NAME EAGERLY SPRINGS TO EACH BEING'S LIPS--
AT THE BALCONY SHE STANDS, HEAD WREATHED IN THE MYSTIC FLAMES OF REGENCY. SHE IS CLEA, DAUGHTER OF ORINI AND UMAR--BRINGER OF LIGHT.
--FOR THE DARK DIMENSION HAS BEEN LIBERATED FROM TYRANNY, AND HAS A NEW RULER!
STEPHEN, COME HERE! THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE CHEERING YOU AS WELL! STAND BESIDE ME!

PETER B. GILLIS	MARK BADGER	JOE ROSEN	BOB SHAREN	CARL POTTS	JIM SHOOTER
WRITER	ART	LETTERS	COLORS	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

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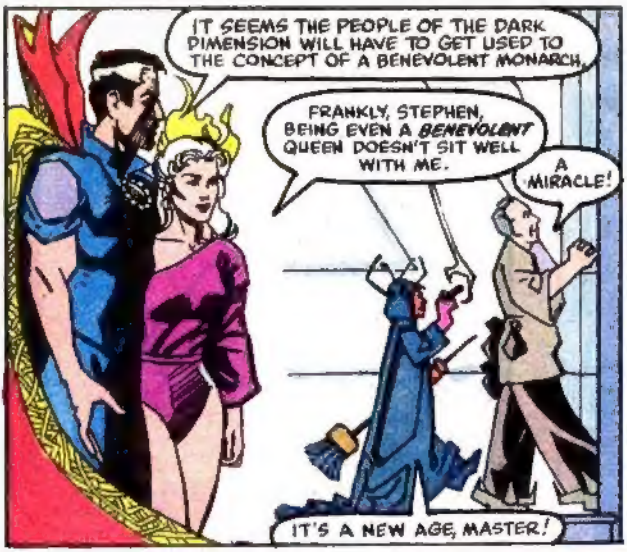
YES, YES, VERY GOOD. A LITTLE MORE OFF THE SIDES--!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, MY LORD!
YOU'VE WON THE HEARTS OF YOUR PEOPLE, CLEA -- AND THEIR JOY SHOULD BE FIXED ON YOU ALONE AT THIS MOMENT. YOU ARE THEIR QUEEN.
YOU KNOW VERY WELL, STEPHEN STRANGE, THAT YOUR HELP WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR REBELLION!
NONSENSE, CLEA. IT WAS YOU AND YOU ALONE WHO DEFEATED UMAR!
HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!
THE WHOLE DARK DIMENSION SAW HOW SHE OVERCAME UMAR, WHEN UMAR HAD FORSAKEN US!
MASTER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? YOU SPOKE WITHOUT PERMISSION!!
OH NO...!
WE ARE DOOMED-- BOTH OF US DOOMED!
OH PLEASE, YOUR MAGNIFICENCE-- MAKE OUR DISMEMBERMENT A SYMBOLE ONE!
I HAD NOT THOUGHT-- PLEASE, AT LEAST SPARE MY LOVED ONES!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?
ARISE, BARBER! YOU'VE DONE NOTHING THAT NEEDS PUNISHING --NOT EVEN FORGIVING!
I-- DIDN'T?
REMEMBER, YOU ARE A FREE MAN NOW!


IT SEEMS THE PEOPLE OF THE DARK DIMENSION WILL HAVE TO GET USED TO THE CONCEPT OF A BENEVOLENT MONARCH.
FRANKLY, STEPHEN, BEING EVEN A *BENEVOLENT* QUEEN DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME.
A MIRACLE!
IT'S A NEW AGE, MASTER!

WHILE ON EARTH, I SAW IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO GOVERN THEMSELVES-- BUT HERE, WHERE PEOPLE HAVE NOT KNOWN THE FREEDOMS EVEN SLAVES HAVE ON EARTH-- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BRING IT TO THEM.
SUCH THINGS TAKE TIME, CLEA--

--AND THERE IS A MORE PRESSING TASK THAT WE MUST PERFORM.
LET THE TWO BE BROUGHT FORTH!

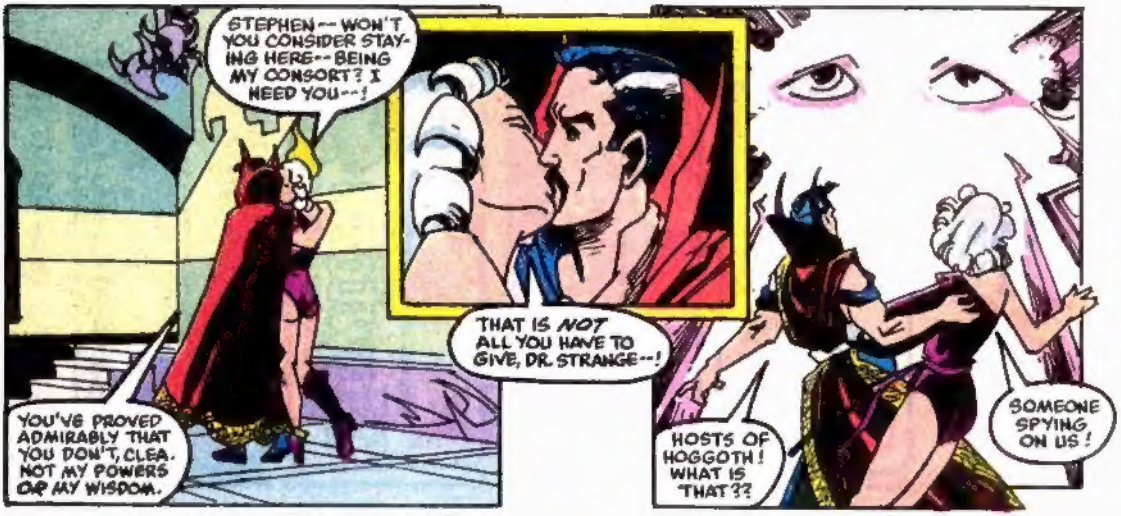
THE TWO WHO CAUSED SUCH EVIL--OUR FOES-- ARE LOCKED IN SPELLS OF STASIS. THEIR FURTHER FATE IS UP TO YOU, CLEA, AS RULER.
OUR FOES, YES-- MY MOTHER AND FATHER.

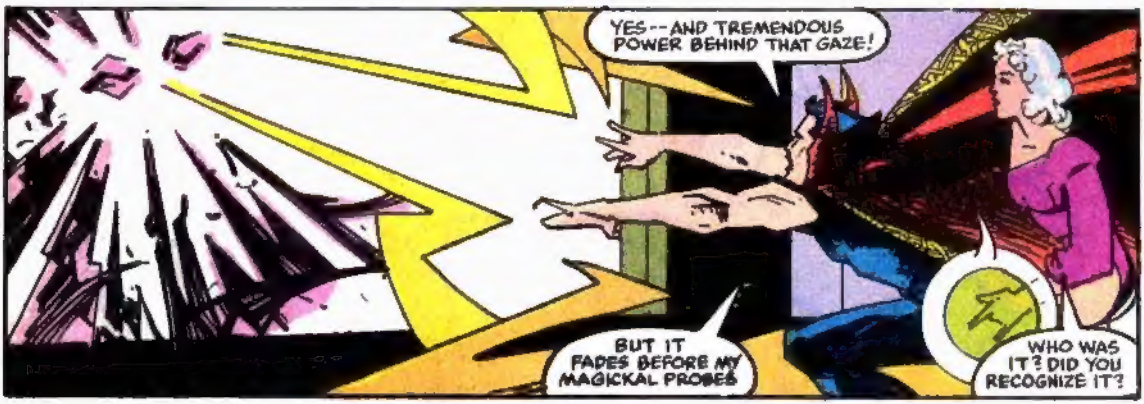
MY FATHER ORINI! HE LOVED MY MOTHER, STEPHEN-- ISN'T THAT THE WAY THINGS SHOULD BE? AND UMAR-- I NEVER KNEW HER EXCEPT AS A TYRANT. WHAT WOULD SHE HAVE BEEN LIKE IF--

--IF I COULD ONLY TOUCH THEM, STEPHEN, FORGET THE FORCES WHICH BIND US-- AND THROW US APART--

--BUT NO. THE EVIL THEY DID CAN'T BE UNDONE, AND THE PAST MUST BE SET ASIDE SO WE CAN GET ON WITH THE FUTURE.
AS YOU WILL. WE MUST PERFORM THE ACT TOGETHER.

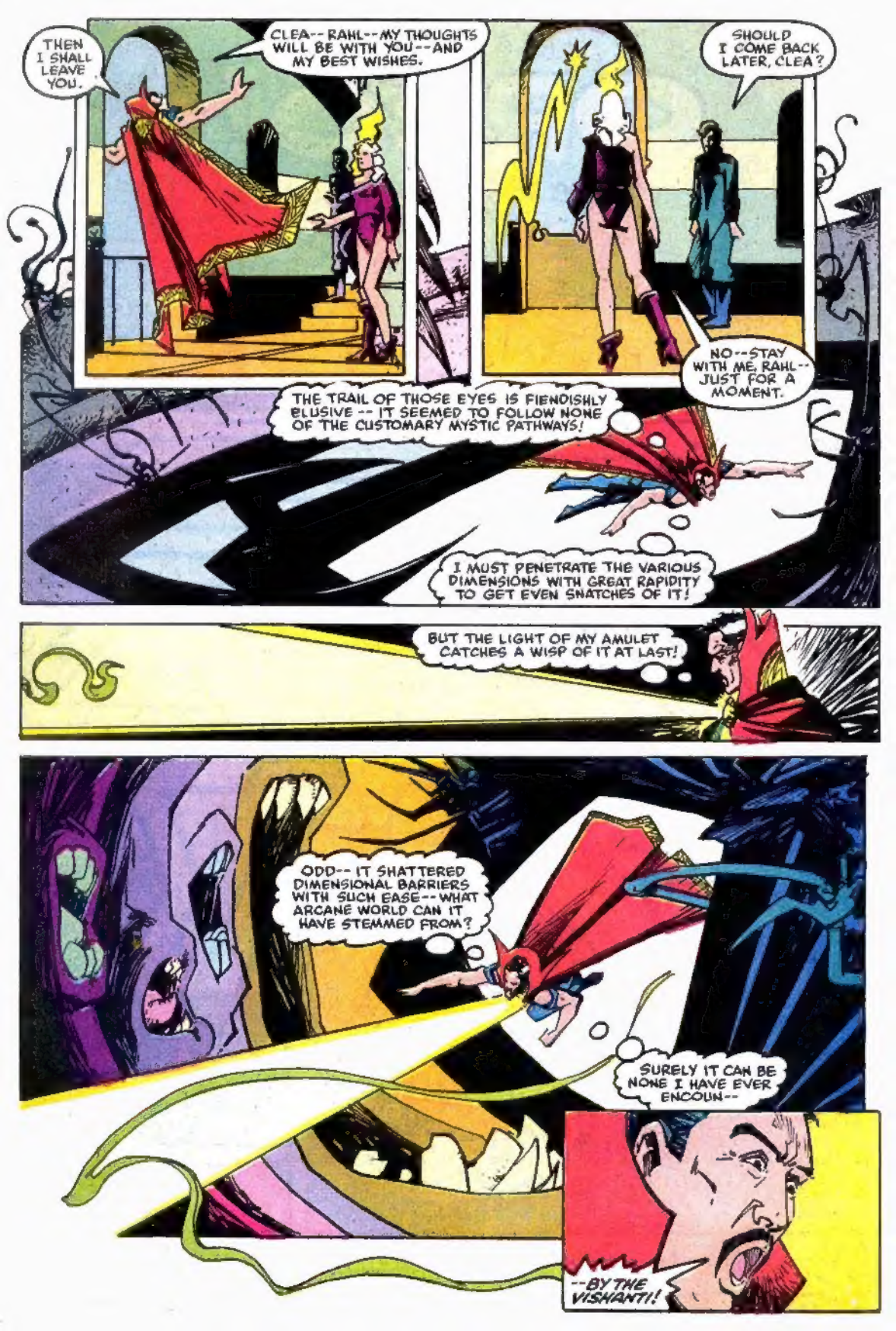
BREAK THE DARK BELOW THE LIGHT / SUNDER, WORLD, AND TREMBLE, MIGHT--
--WATCOMB'S WINDS, AND IKONN'S SEEMING, CAST THESE ONES BEYOND ALL DREAMING--
--OUT, BEYOND THE PALE OF POWER--
--UNTIL DOOMSDAY STRIKES THE --HOUR--!
I'M SORRY, STEPHEN. ETERNAL BANISHMENT-- SUCH A TERRIBLE THING--!
NO HARM DONE. YOU DID COMPLETE THE SPELL--AND I CAN SEAL IT EASILY.
AND NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS--
--IS THE FUTURE, CLEA. WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE OF IT.


STEPHEN -- WON'T YOU CONSIDER STAYING HERE -- BEING MY CONSORT? I NEED YOU --!
YOU'VE PROVED ADMIRABLY THAT YOU DON'T, CLEA. NOT MY POWERS OR MY WISDOM.
THAT IS NOT ALL YOU HAVE TO GIVE, DR. STRANGE --!
HOSTS OF HOGGOTH! WHAT IS THAT??
SOMEONE SPYING ON US!


YES -- AND TREMENDOUS POWER BEHIND THAT GAZE!
BUT IT FADES BEFORE MY MAGICKAL PROBES
WHO WAS IT? DID YOU RECOGNIZE IT?

THE FEELING OF IT WAS UTTERLY STRANGE -- BUT I COULD TELL THE EYES WERE MEANT FOR MYSELF ALONE.
I MUST LOOK INTO THIS, CLEA. I AM SORRY.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, STEPHEN...
YOUR OFFER DOES FLATTER ME, CLEA -- BUT I AM DEDICATED TO EARTH. AND THERE WILL BE NEW LOVES THAT WILL BUILD ON TOP OF THE LOVE WE ONCE HAD. YOU WILL FIND WHAT YOU NEED.

CLEA, I NEED -- OH! I'M SORRY -- I'VE COME AT A BAD TIME!
NOT AT ALL, RAHL -- YOUR TIMING WAS EXCELLENT.
ONE MIGHT EVEN SAY PERFECT.


THEN I SHALL LEAVE YOU.
CLEA--RAHL--MY THOUGHTS WILL BE WITH YOU--AND MY BEST WISHES.
SHOULD I COME BACK LATER, CLEA?
NO--STAY WITH ME, RAHL--JUST FOR A MOMENT.
THE TRAIL OF THOSE EYES IS FIENDISHLY ELUSIVE -- IT SEEMED TO FOLLOW NONE OF THE CUSTOMARY MYSTIC PATHWAYS!
I MUST PENETRATE THE VARIOUS DIMENSIONS WITH GREAT RAPIDITY TO GET EVEN SNATCHES OF IT!
BUT THE LIGHT OF MY AMULET CATCHES A WISP OF IT AT LAST!
ODD-- IT SHATTERED DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS WITH SUCH EASE--WHAT ARCANE WORLD CAN IT HAVE STEMMED FROM?
SURELY IT CAN BE NONE I HAVE EVER ENCOUN--
--BY THE VISHANTI!

I'M BACK ON EARTH! RIGHT ABOVE MY OWN SANCTUM SANCTORUM!
SUCH A COSMOS-SPANNING POWER--HERE? IN MY OWN HOUSE?
THE DANGER OF SUCH POWER LOOSE AMID MY SECRETS--I HAVE TO FIND OUT ITS NATURE!
WORSE AND WORSE! I SENSE NO TRACES OF MAGICKAL CHARMS, NO SPELLS OR INCANTATIONS--JUST POWER! POWER BEYOND COMPREHENSION!
WONG! SARA!
MOON OF MUNNOPOR! THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO--LOOSE FROM ITS PROTECTIVE CASE--AND SARA AND WONG, FROZEN LIKE STATUES!
WITH ALL THE SAFE-GUARDING SPELLS I HAVE CAST OVER THIS HOUSE, ALL THIS ACCOMPLISHED!

BE FREE FROM YOUR PARALYSIS--AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!

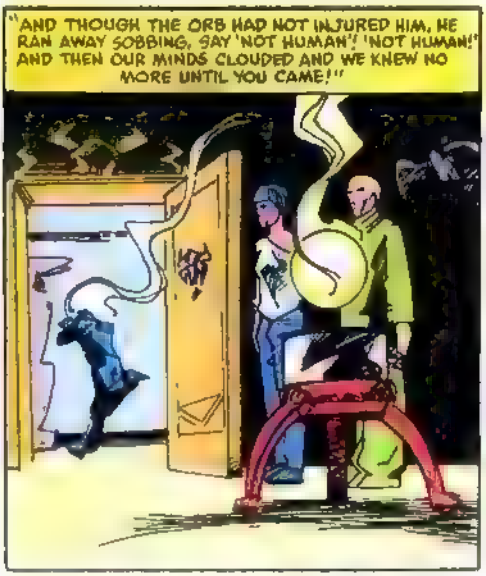
STOP HIM--HE'S GETTING AWAY--!
NO, SARA--TIME HAS--PASSED!
YOU ARE BOTH WEAK. COME--LET'S TALK IN THE KITCHEN.

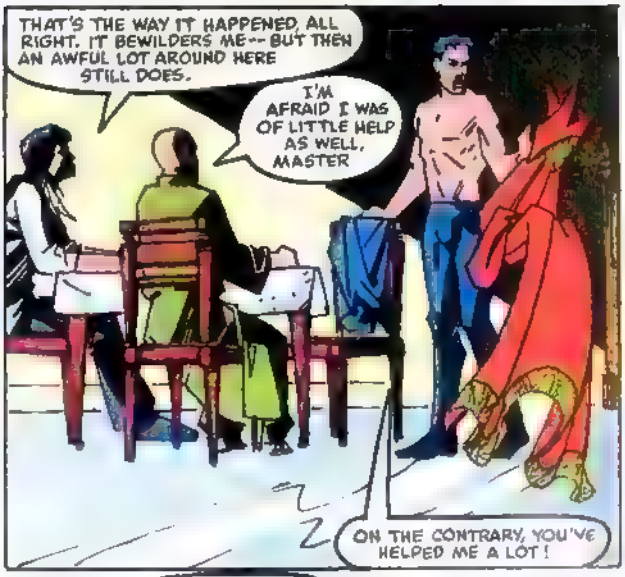
SO TELL ME...THIS INTRUDER--WHAT WAS HE LIKE? FOR THE EASE WITH WHICH HE INVADED THE SANCTUM, HE DID VERY LITTLE DAMAGE!
IN RETROSPECT, MASTER, HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE EVIL--
--AND YET THERE WAS SOMETHING SCARY ABOUT HIM--SOMETHING INSIDE, SOMETHING--IN A WAY, HE REMINDED ME OF WHAT YOU TOLD ME THE HULK WAS LIKE, SOMETHING BOILING BENEATH THE SURFACE--
--NO, IT'S NO GOOD. THE ONLY WAY I CAN DESCRIBE HIM IS JUST TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED, STEP BY STEP.

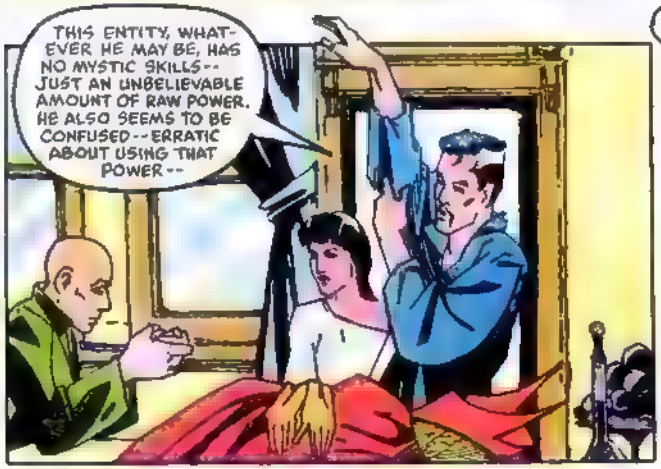
"I CAME DOWN TO DEAL WITH SOMEONE BANGING ON THE FRONT DOOR--
DR. STRANGE! I WANT TO SEE DR. STRANGE!
"--WHEN THIS GUY JUST WALKS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AS IF HE WERE A SPIRIT!

"BUT HE WAS PLENTY SOLID ALL RIGHT--HE GRABBED ME AND KEPT ON SHOUTING.
HE CAN HELP ME! HE CAN TELL ME WHAT THIS IS FOR! I HAVE TO SEE DR. STRANGE!
LET GO OF ME!

GET AWAY FROM HER!
I CAN HANDLE IT, WONG!
THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANT-- THIS IS CONFLICT! THIS ISN'T THE ANSWER!
I DON'T WANT CONFLICT! I WANT TO SEE DR. STRANGE!
"AND HE TOUCHED US AND--JUST LIKE THAT--OUR MINDS WEREN'T OUR OWN ANY MORE!"
"I WILL CONTINUE, SARA--I COULD NOT HELP BUT REVEAL WHATEVER SECRETS I HELD TO THE BEING--INCLUDING THAT THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO COULD BE USED TO CONTACT YOU ACROSS THE COSMIC ALL.
"I WAS READY TO TELL HIM THE SPELL TO UNLOCK IT--I AM SORRY, MASTER--
"--WHEN THE BEING RIPPED THE COVER OPEN--VIOLATING THE SPELLS WROUGHT BY AGAMOTTO HIMSELF!
"I HAD NOT THOUGHT SUCH A THING POSSIBLE, MASTER--
SHOW ME DR. STRANGE--NOW!
"AND TO THAT PRIMITIVE COMMAND--
"--THE GLOBE RESPONDED!
I SEE HIM--
--I SEE, I SEE--
--TOO MUCH!
"AND HE SCREAMED AND TURNED FROM THE CRYSTAL!"


"AND THOUGH THE ORB HAD NOT INJURED HIM, HE RAN AWAY SOBBING, SAY 'NOT HUMAN'! 'NOT HUMAN!' AND THEN OUR MINDS CLOUDED AND WE KNEW NO MORE UNTIL YOU CAME!"

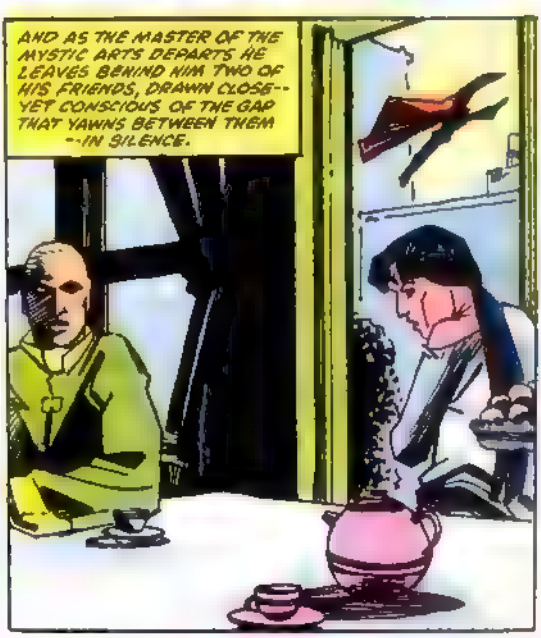

THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENED, ALL RIGHT. IT BEWILDERS ME -- BUT THEN AN AWFUL LOT AROUND HERE STILL DOES.
I'M AFRAID I WAS OF LITTLE HELP AS WELL, MASTER
ON THE CONTRARY, YOU'VE HELPED ME A LOT!


THIS ENTITY, WHATEVER HE MAY BE, HAS NO MYSTIC SKILLS -- JUST AN UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF RAW POWER. HE ALSO SEEMS TO BE CONFUSED -- ERRATIC ABOUT USING THAT POWER --

-- AND FINALLY, A BEING IN NEED!

THE QUALITY OF HIS POWER IS -- ODD -- BUT HE HAS NOT PURPOSELY MASKED HIS TRAIL.

I'LL BE ABLE TO TRACE IT NOW THAT IT'S EARTH-BOUND WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE. BUT I MUST START BEFORE IT GROWS TOO FAINT. YOU'VE BOTH DONE WELL: THANK YOU.


AND AS THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS DEPARTS HE LEAVES BEHIND HIM TWO OF HIS FRIENDS, DRAWN CLOSE -- YET CONSCIOUS OF THE GAP THAT YAWNS BETWEEN THEM -- IN SILENCE.

AS I SUSPECTED HE HAS NOT LEFT THIS UNIVERSE, NOR EARTH-- NOT EVEN NEW YORK. IN FACT--
--HE'S GONE TO A PLACE I KNOW ALL TOO WELL! IT'S ONE OF THE SLEAZY WATER-FRONT BARS--
"--WHERE I ONCE SOUGHT AN END TO MY PAIN IN A BOTTLE!"
I DON'T SEE IT--
HOW'S IT DONE? HOW'S A GUY SUPPOSED TO LIVE? I MEAN, WHAT'S THE POINT? YOU LIVE FROM DAY TO DAY, TRYING TO-- TRYING TO-- TO WHAT?
--TO BE HAPPY! THAT'S IT! TO BE HAPPY!
I JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY-- PEOPLE TO LIKE ME-- BUT THEY DON'T! NOTHING WORKS! CRAWLIN' AROUND BLIND-- IGNORANT-- I NEED THE ANSWER! THANSWER TO BEING HAPPY!
SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE A BIT TOO HAPPY ALREADY, BUSTER!
HEY! I WASN'T FINISHED WITH THAT!
YOU'RE FINISHED, ALL RIGHT MR. PHILOSOPHER! I DON'T LIKE MESSY DRUNKS IN MY BAR!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR THIS GUY TO TEACH ME--
WELL, BUDDY, YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN A PRETTY TOUGH LESSON IN JUST ABOUT A SECOND IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF HERE!

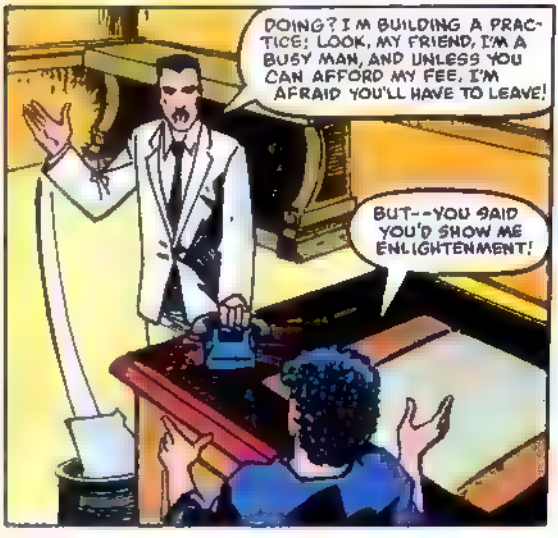
THE TRACE LEADS HERE, AND-- SHOUTING FROM WITHIN--!
CANADA DRY WARNER'S APPS
I'M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS--
THAT'S IT! BOYS, GIVE THE BUM THE--
I'VE FOUND HIM!
KWHOOM!
LET THE WINDS OF MISTOOMS ENGULF THESE MEN--
--AND MAKE THEIR LANDING LESS THAN FATAL.
BUT MY BUSINESS MUST BE WITH THIS MAN!
JEEZ, BUDDY, IF I'DA KNOWN YOU WUZ A SUPER-HERO ON A BENDER, I'DA NEVER-- YOU WANT ANOTHER BOTTLE?
YOU HAVE SOUGHT DR. STRANGE OUT, MY FRIEND --SO FACE HIM NOW!
DR. STRANGE?
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DR. STRANGE! PLEASE! YOU'RE TH' GUY-- SHOW ME WHAT THIS-- SHOW ME TH' WAY--!

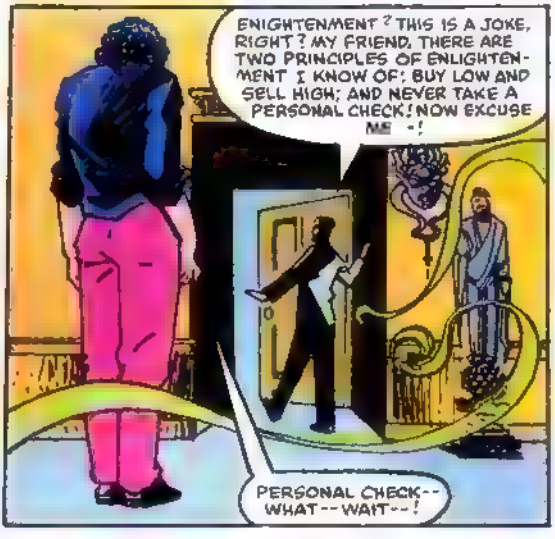
YOU VIOLATE MY HOME, HARM MY FRIENDS -- YOU REEK OF DRINK -- EXPLAIN YOURSELF! WHO ARE YOU?
NO, NO CONFLICT -- UNNERSTAND CONFLICT -- STUPID -- NEED 'NLIGHTNMINT -- THASS RIGHT, 'NLIGHTNMINT -- WANNA BE HAPPY, Y'KNOW?
I'LL GET NOTHING FROM HIM THIS WAY! SO LET THE EYE OF THE AMULET COME FORTH --
--AND LET THE LIGHT OF TRUTH REVEAL THIS ONE'S TRUE NATURE!
AS I THOUGHT -- THIS MORTAL SHELL IS ONLY A CONSTRUCT!
WITHIN IS --
NO!!!
DR STEPHEN STRANGE, ONCE SORCERER SUPREME OF OUR UNIVERSE, WHO HAS STOOD UNAFRAID BEFORE ETERNITY HIMSELF -- DR STRANGE, WHO HAS WALKED THROUGH THE HEART OF CHAOS AND THE HEART OF LIGHT WITH OPEN EYES --
-- DR. STRANGE RECOILS!!

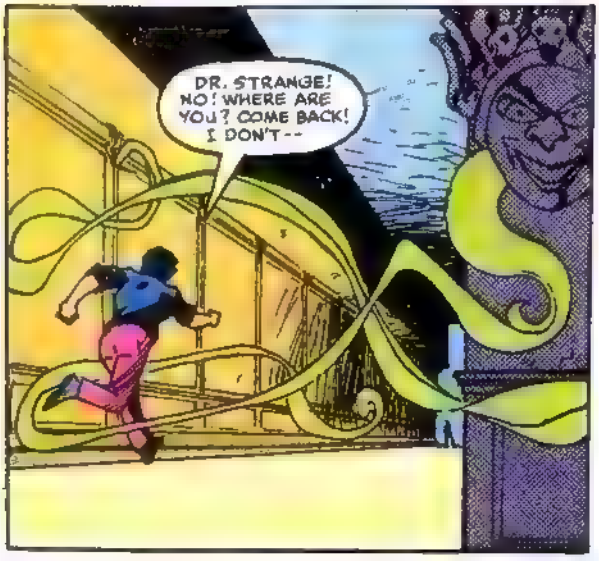
THERE IS--NO NAME FOR WHAT I SAW IN THERE--POWER TO MAKE AND UNMAKE--POWER, AND THINGS BEYOND POWER!
I NEED ENLIGHTENMENT! I'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO LIVE! YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME ENLIGHTENMENT--NOW!
WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
ME? I'M FROM BEYOND!
BEING HUMAN--IT'S MAD! IT'S CRAZY! I NEED TO KNOW IT THOUGH! TEACH ME ENLIGHTENMENT, DR. STRANGE! SHOW ME!
SUCH POWER WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE INCARNATED INTO ONE BEING--ESPECIALLY NOT ONE AS BEWILDERED AND ERRATIC AS THIS! THE DANGER IS CLEAR--HE COULD ERASE THE UNIVERSE WITH A THOUGHT!
AND YET HE LIMITS HIMSELF--AND HE PUTS HIMSELF IN MY HANDS! NOW--AND PERHAPS ONLY NOW--HE COULD BE STOPPED! NEUTRALIZED! YES--DESTROYED!
COME ON! I'M WAITING!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LIE! BETRAY THE TRUTH! LEAD HIM DOWN A ROAD OF ILLUSION--AND DAMNATION!
I MEAN--ENLIGHTENMENT MAKES SENSE OUT OF POWER, AND LOVE, AND PLEASURE AND PAIN, RIGHT?! I NEED THAT! HOW CAN YOU LIVE WITHOUT IT?
AND YET--DO I THINK THE LIGHT SO FAINT, AND WISDOM WEAK? DO I DARE DENY HIM--ESPECIALLY HIM--THE THINGS I HAVE LEARNED--DO I NOT TRUST THE TRUTH?
VERY WELL, YOU FROM BEYOND--
--WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR!
IS--IS THERE ENLIGHTENMENT BEYOND THAT DOOR?
LET US SEE--MY PUPIL, LET US SEE.
I WILL SHOW HIM THE PATH I TROD SO MANY YEARS AGO AND TRUST IN THE LESSONS LEARNED.

WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS CAN'T BE ENLIGHTENMENT! IT'S AS CRAZY AS EVERYTHING ELSE!

NO, NO -- YOUR HOSPITAL TAKES FOREVER TO PAY! RUINED MY CASH FLOW! NO, SORRY -- LOOK, YOU CAN'T EAT HUMANITARIANISM!
DR.-- STRANGE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


DOING? I'M BUILDING A PRACTICE! LOOK, MY FRIEND, I'M A BUSY MAN, AND UNLESS YOU CAN AFFORD MY FEE, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE!
BUT--YOU SAID YOU'D SHOW ME ENLIGHTENMENT!


ENLIGHTENMENT? THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT? MY FRIEND, THERE ARE TWO PRINCIPLES OF ENLIGHTENMENT I KNOW OF: BUY LOW AND SELL HIGH; AND NEVER TAKE A PERSONAL CHECK! NOW EXCUSE ME -!
PERSONAL CHECK-- WHAT -- WAIT--!


DR. STRANGE! NO! WHERE ARE YOU? COME BACK! I DON'T --

-- UNDERSTAND?
I'M-- BACK IN THE BAR? THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! DR. STRANGE!

YEAH, I'M STEPHEN STRANGE. BUT VISITING HOURS'RE OVER. SCRAM.
BUT I NEED HELP--I NEED YOU TO TEACH ME ENLIGHTENMENT--!
OH, DO TELL?

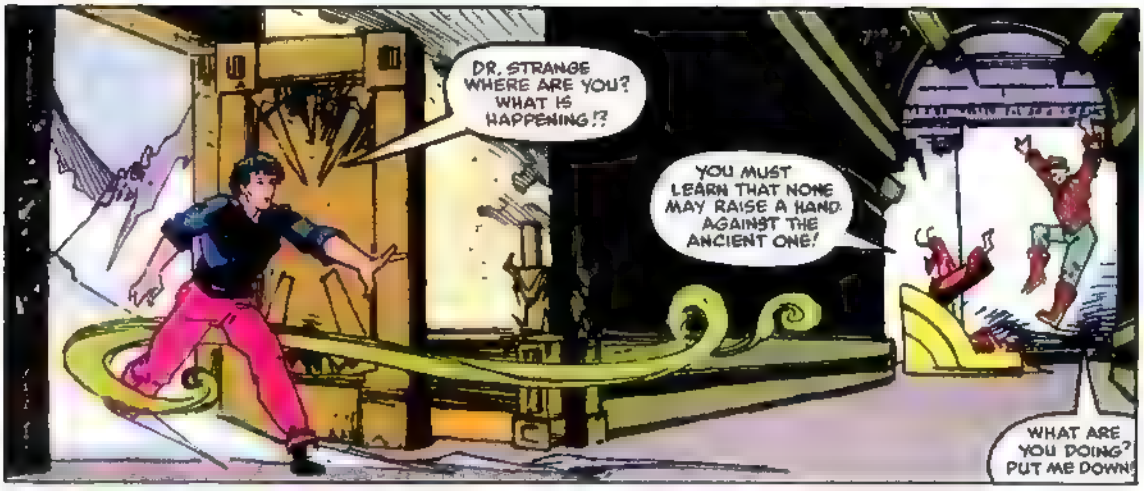
ENLIGHTENMENT--SURE! IF SOMEONE C'N TELL *ME* WHY IT IS I'M SITTING HERE WITH TWITCHIN' HANDS WHEN I USED TO BE--A SURGEON--SOMEBODY TELLS ME WHAT SENSE'T MAKES, I'LL PASS IT RIGHT ALONG!
YOU ARE DRUNK--AS I WAS. YOU ARE IN PAIN--CONFUSED.

SURE I'M DRUNK! AND DON'T GIVE ME NO 'PICK YERSELF UP' SPEECH--I'M GETTIN' OUT! OUTTA MY WAY!

YOU NEED A DRINK! I NEED A DRINK! LIFE KICKS YOU IN THE FACE--CAN'T STOP IT--ONLY WHEN YOU'RE SOUSED IT DOESN'T HURT AS MUCH!
I TELL YOU--IT'S TRUE! THIS *ANCIENT ONE* GUY--HE CAN CURE ANYTHING! ANYTHING AT ALL!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?

YEAH, THE ANCIENT ONE--SURE HE CAN CURE MY HANDS--MAJOR NERVE DAMAGE--A REAL SNAP! WHAT A CROCK!
BUT IF YOU WANT YOUR HANDS FIXED--SHOULDN'T YOU ASK HIM?

IF SOMETHING HURTS--IF SOMETHING IS WRONG--SHOULDN'T IT BE FIXED? DR. STRANGE? DR. STRANGE?


DR. STRANGE WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT IS HAPPENING!?
YOU MUST LEARN THAT NONE MAY RAISE A HAND AGAINST THE ANCIENT ONE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PUT ME DOWN!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF CHEAP HYPNOTISM YOU USED, BUT I'M NOT BUYING! I ONLY CAME HERE TO GET YOU TO HEAL MY HANDS SO I CAN BE A SURGEON AGAIN!
AND YOU WOULD FOREGO ALL THAT I MIGHT TEACH YOU SO THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE YOUR-- JOB BACK. VERY WELL. MY PUPIL MORDO WILL SHOW YOU TO A ROOM.
DR STRANGE?

THEN DR. STRANGE ONCE REFUSED ENLIGHTENMENT FROM YOU?
YOU BEGIN TO SEE, THEN, YES, LATER I WAS HIS TEACHER.

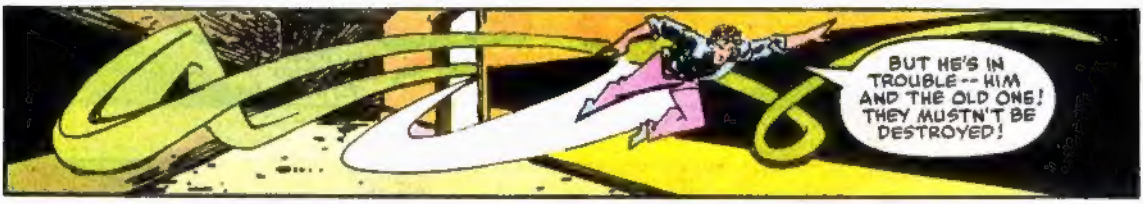
FOR CONFUSION IS A NECESSARY STEP--A ROCK DOES NOT DOUBT-- NOR DOES IT BELIEVE. YOUR CONFUSION SERVES ITS PURPOSE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHO ARE YOU?
I? I AM WHAT YOU WERE --AND WHAT YOU SHALL ULTIMATELY BECOME--

-- THAT IS TO SAY, NO ONE!

DR. STRANGE, WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NO! I'VE GOT TO SEE HOW YOU ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT, SO I CAN DO IT! COME BACK HERE!
WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED? I CAN TELL THAT ALL THIS IS A SET OF IMAGES--TO TEACH ME! BUT SO FAR IT'S JUST CRAZY--AND I'M GETTING FURTHER FROM AN ANSWER, NOT CLOSER!
DOING? I'M LEAVING! ALL THIS MUMBO-JUMBO IS DRIVING ME BATS! I WAS BETTER OFF AT THE BOTTOM OF A BOTTLE! GOOD-BYE!
PLEASE--SHOW ME HOW IT HAPPENED! PLEASE!
I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU--IT NEVER HAPPENED, AND NEVER WILL!
O GREAT DORMAMMU, HEAR MY PLEA! STRIKE DOWN THE HATED ANCIENT ONE AND--STRANGE!
MORDO! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THE ANCIENT ONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THMMMPH!
THIS SPELL WILL ENSURE YOU IMPART YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO NO ONE!
FORGET IT, MORDO! I WANT HIS KNOWLEDGE!

YOU? YOU PITIFUL WORM! YOU CAN'T STOP ANYTHING!
I CAN'T TOUCH HIM-- GO RIGHT THROUGH HIM!

BUT DON'T WORRY-- I'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO STOP HIM, THEN YOU CAN--DR. STRANGE?
HE'S GONE AGAIN!


BUT HE'S IN TROUBLE--HIM AND THE OLD ONE! THEY MUSTN'T BE DESTROYED!

YES, I KNEW OF MORDO'S COWARDLY ATTACK--AND YOUR BRAVERY IN DEFYING THE SPELL, DR. STRANGE.

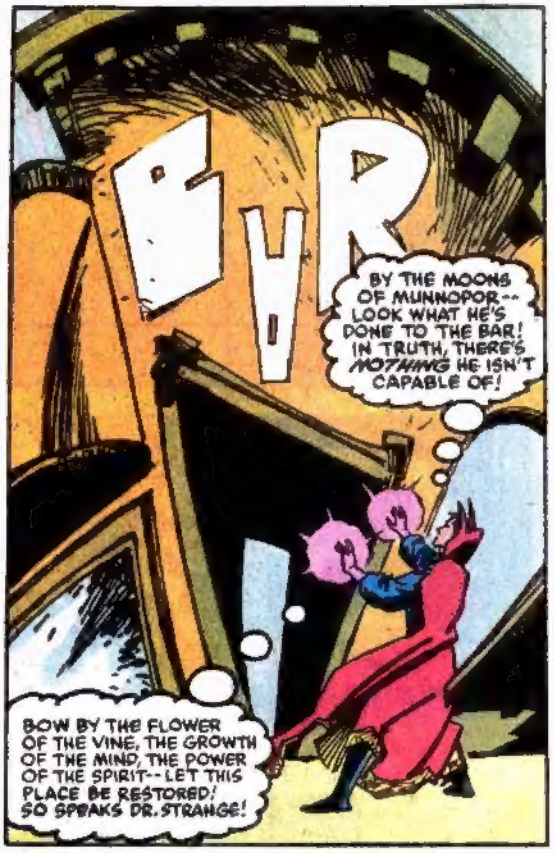
YOU CAME HERE SEEKING AN EASE TO YOUR WOES, AND INSTEAD WHAT IS OFFERED IS DANGER, AND SORROW, AND MORE PAIN! THINK CAREFULLY ON WHAT YOU HAVE ASKED!

I STILL WISH IT--TO BECOME YOUR DISCIPLE, ANCIENT ONE.

THAT'S IT? MORE PAIN IS THE ANSWER TO HAPPINESS? HOW CAN THAT BE?
NOT PAIN, MY FRIEND FROM BEYOND --DEDICATION! THE WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ON PAIN FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS, AND THE WORLD!
IT TRANSCENDS PAIN--TRANSCENDS DESIRE. WHEN I RAN TO SAVE THE ANCIENT ONE, I HAD LEARNED THE FIRST LESSON!
BUT NOW--LET THE ILLUSION BE DISPELLED
HAD YOU NOT MADE THE EFFORT YOURSELF TO HELP ME AGAINST MORDO, YOU WOULD HAVE LIVED OUT ETERNITY IN THAT VEIL OF ILLUSION.
YOU'D HAVE DONE THAT TO ME?
BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND! IS THAT IT? TO BE HAPPY, I HAVE TO SACRIFICE?
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHY ISN'T EVERYBODY HAPPY? IF ENLIGHTENMENT IS SIMPLE WHY IS IT SO HARD TO FIND?
BECAUSE YOU MUST KNOW WHAT TO SACRIFICE, MY FRIEND! THE WORLD EXACTS A PRICE FROM US IN PROPORTION TO OUR ABILITIES!
I HAD GREAT GIFTS--AND I WAS CALLED UPON TO GIVE THEM ALL UP! I HAD TO GIVE UP MY DREAMS OF WEALTH, AND POWER, AND THE GRATITUDE OF THE MASSES IT WAS MY LOT TO PROTECT! AND MOST OF ALL--I EVEN HAD TO GIVE UP MY REGRET OVER MY CHOICE.
YOU HAVE POWER BEYOND MEASURE, MY FRIEND, I EXPECT THAT THE SACRIFICE THE WORLD ASKS OF YOU WILL BE LIKEWISE BEYOND MEASURE!

IF THAT'S ENLIGHTENMENT, IT SURE ISN'T WHAT THEY TOLD ME IT WOULD BE-- IT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL AT ALL HAPPIER!
THAT'S BECAUSE HAPPINESS CAN BE TRANSCENDED AS WELL-- BUT THAT IS A LESSON NO MAN CAN TEACH.
I'M GOING TO GET THAT GUY-- I'M GOING TO UPL-- PULVER-- PULVERIZ ZZZZZ
SACRIFICE-- DEDICATION-- TRANSCEND-- I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT THOSE WORDS MEAN, DR. STRANGE. WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW SHOULD I ACT?
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPINESS IS, MY FRIEND-- AND YOU KNOW PAIN. SEE OTHERS-- AND TRY TO FOSTER THE ONE AND PREVENT THE OTHER. SIMPLY THAT.
I DON'T KNOW --LIVING, BEING HUMAN -- IT SEEMS BITTER AND BLEAK. I'M NOT SURE I LIKE ENLIGHTEN-MENT. I'M NOT SURE IT'S WORTH IT.
THEN YOU SHOULD SEE WHY IT IS DIFFICULT-- AND RARE AND PRECIOUS.
BUT PROMISE ME AT LEAST, THAT YOU WILL TRY, WITH THE POWER YOU POSSESS, WITHOUT RESPONSI-BILITY-- DEDICATION --YOU COULD CAUSE MUCH DAMAGE. YOU RUINED THAT BAR, AND COULD HAVE INJURED THOSE MEN.
OH, SORRY. IT'S THE ALCOHOL, I GUESS.
BY THE VISHANTI!

BUT THANK YOU, DR. STRANGE! I DO PROMISE! HAPPINESS--PAIN--AND SACRIFICE! I'LL TRY! GOOD-BYE!
GOOD--BYE, MY FRIEND--!


BY THE MOONS OF MUNNOPOR--LOOK WHAT HE'S DONE TO THE BAR! IN TRUTH, THERE'S *NOTHING* HE ISN'T CAPABLE OF!
BOW BY THE FLOWER OF THE VINE, THE GROWTH OF THE MIND, THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT--LET THIS PLACE BE RESTORED! SO SPEAKS DR. STRANGE!

DONE! BUT WHAT MORE MAY HAPPEN WHERE THAT ONE IS CONCERNED?
HE HAS TAKEN IN HIMSELF THE LIMITATION OF HUMANITY. BUT, HUMANKIND HAS HAD A MOST TRAGIC AND BRUTAL HISTORY, DRIVEN BY THE FORCES WHICH DRIVE HIM NOW!
ONLY WITH HIM, THOSE THINGS MAY BE MAGNIFIED TO INFINITY!
BAR

AND YET--I GAVE HIM THE *HOPE* OF MANKIND--THAT IT CAN RISE ABOVE ITSELF BY FORGETTING ITSELF. I COULD DO NOTHING ELSE.
AS FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTS--I COULD NOT STOP HIM A SECOND TIME. ALL I CAN DO NOW IS WAIT AND SEE. YES, WAIT AND SEE. AND HOPE.